The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club Inc.

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Field Day 2000

The 4th weekend of June (June 24 & 25, 2000) is the American Radio Relay League contest known as Field Day. Field Day began as a test of emergency preparedness. In recent years, with local emergencies being handled on VHF frequencies, Field Day has taken on more of a contest flair.

In simple terms, Field Day is when a group of hams pack up their equipment and head to some open space and set up a fully functioning Amateur Radio station and try to make as many contacts (conversations) with other individuals and groups in the contest. Generally some sort of emergency power is used. Points are awarded in various categories for contacts as well as some other activities. Some groups go all out to make as many points as possible. Some groups try to simulate an emergency as much as possible. We at MRAC look at Field Day as a combination of club picnic, equipment test, and training session for anyone with a question about how to operate a radio, set up an antenna, operate in a contest, anything to do with operating an Amateur Radio station.

The club owns 2 radios, multiple antennas, cables, ropes, and a generator. The club holds a club license with Extra class privileges (W9RH). That means that as long as a suitable control operator is present (and there usually is) anyone, licensed or not can take a turn at a radio. 2 people usually operate a radio (one operating and one logging the contacts). The club also provides food and drink. The Field Day site offers fixed buildings for shelter as well as portable toilet facilities. In short you need only bring yourself and a desire to have fun. If you wish to bring some equipment and test it out during the contest, that is fine too. Interested in just stopping by to visit and see exactly we are up to, that's fine too. Everyone, member or not, licensed or not is welcome.

Operations begin around 9:00 AM on Saturday June 24 (equipment setup) with actual contest operating beginning at 1:00 PM. The contest ends at 4:00 PM Sunday June 25 (though a station may only operate 24 consecutive hours). MRAC will probably shut down at 1:00 PM (24 hours). Then all equipment must be taken down and loaded back into cars and trucks. The location is Pioneer Village, located north of Cedarburg northwest of Port Washington, on Hwy I, north of hwy 33, (adjacent to Hawthorne Hills Country Club), south of hwy 84, west of I-43.

For further information contact the club at the above telephone, address, or email. See you at Field Day!